

BOROUGH OF BIDEFORD

Telephone :
Bideford 2486.

Public Health Department,
Cooper Street,
Bideford.

ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH AND SANITARY
CIRCUMSTANCES
OF BIDEFORD
FOR THE YEAR
1972

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.



Report of Medical Officer of Health

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Bideford.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary
Administration of the Borough for the year 1972.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

October, 1973.

Health Committee

1972

The Worshipful the Mayor }
Chairman } Councillor J. W. Needs

Aldermen C. Cann
Mrs. E. J. Brown

Councillors E. Hill
C. S. Short
H. E. Hopkins
M. B. Goss
H. N. Fulford
Mrs. Morgan
C. Coates

Public Health Staff

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

Inspector of Meats and Foods

Housing Officer

Petroleum Officer

A. E. T. NETTING, M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :

G. H. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.H.

(Resigned 28th February, 1972)

J. RICHARDS, M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced 22nd May, 1972)

ANNUAL REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area in Acres	4,068
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)	11,960
Rateable Value (as at 1-4-1972)	£430,436
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1972/73)	£4,125
General Rate in the £ for Year 1972/73	85.5p
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1-4-72)	4,130
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31-12-72)	827
Density of Persons per House	2.96
Extracts from Vital Statistics	
Births : Area Comparability Factor	1.10
Deaths : Area Comparability Factor	0.08

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births

Number	167
Rate per 1,000 population	14.0
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor	15.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births	5

Stillbirths

Number	0
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	0
Total Live and Still Births	167
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	4
Infant Mortality Rates	
Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births	24
Legit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legit. Live Births	19
Illegit. Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegit. Live Births	125
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births)	12
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births)	12

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births)	12
Maternal Mortality (including Abortion)	
Number of Deaths	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	Nil
Deaths	185
Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	12.4

**POPULATION, BIRTHS AND DEATHS TABLE FOR THE
BOROUGH SINCE 1950**

<i>Year</i>	<i>Population (Regist. Gen. Estimate)</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
1950	10,270	149	152
1951	10,200	167	187
1952	10,170	152	143
1953	10,210	146	152
1954	10,300	159	148
1955	10,220	136	140
1956	10,200	141	168
1957	10,210	174	139
1958	10,340	146	138
1959	10,460	156	157
1960	10,510	174	156
1961	10,600	146	168
1962	10,820	161	138
1963	10,820	176	163
1964	10,820	161	168
1965	10,830	163	169
1966	10,830	169	157
1967	10,850	191	177
1968	11,030	177	181
1969	11,240	167	172
1970	11,500	154	177
1971	11,850	186	186
1972	11,960	167	185

BIRTHS

During the year there were 167 live births, which was 19 less than occurred during 1971.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	87	72	159
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	<hr/> 91	<hr/> 76	<hr/> 167
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	14.0
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Fact.	....	....	15.4
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	14.8
Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Live and Still Births	....	....	—

DEATHS

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 185, as compared with 186 in 1971.

	Males	Females	Total
	79	106	185
Death Rate per 1,000 population	....	....	15.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population adjusted by Comp. Factor	....	....	12.4
Death Rate for England and Wales....	....	....	12.1

The following table shows the Causes of Death:

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine....	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	9	1	10
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	—	1
Leukaemia	1	—	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	8	7	15
Benign and unspecified Neoplasms	—	1	1
Other Endocrine etc., Diseases	—	2	2
Multiple Sclerosis	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	3	2	5
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	—	1	1
Hypertensive Disease	3	3	6
Ischaemic Heart Disease	23	33	56
Other Forms of Heart Disease	2	6	8
Cerebrovascular Disease	1	20	21
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	10	14
Pneumonia	3	2	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	1	8
Peptic Ulcer	1	1	2
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	—	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	4	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	3	3	6
Congenital Anomalies	1	—	1
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
Suicide and self-inflicted Injuries	—	1	1
	<hr/> 79	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 185

DEATHS OCCURRED IN THE FOLLOWING AGE-GROUPS

Under 1 year	4	35-44 years	1
1- 4 years	—	45-54 years	10
5-14 years	—	55-64 years	26
15-24 years	2	65-74 years	60
25-34 years	1	Over 75 years	81

NEO-NATAL DEATHS

There were two deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Four infants died under the age of one year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

No deaths occurred of women in childbirth.

CANCER DEATHS

There were 34 deaths from Cancer during the year, seven less than in 1971.

				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Oesophagus	....	....	....	—	1	1
Stomach	....	....	....	1	2	3
Intestine	....	....	....	—	1	1
Prostate	....	....	....	1	—	1
Lungs and Bronchus	....	....	....	9	1	10
Breast	....	....	....	—	2	2
Leukaemia	....	....	....	1	—	1
Other	....	....	....	8	7	15
				—	—	—
				20	14	34
				—	—	—

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

<i>Year</i>					<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1950	...	....	....	....	—	—	—
1951	....	....	....	....	2	—	2
1952	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
1953	...	....	....	....	2	—	2
1954	....	....	....	....	3	2	5
1955	...	....	....	....	2	—	2
1956	...	....	....	....	3	—	3
1957	...	....	....	....	1	—	1
1958	...	....	....	....	2	—	2
1959	....	....	....	....	4	—	4
1960	....	....	....	....	3	1	4
1961	....	....	....	....	5	—	5
1962	....	....	....	....	5	—	5
1963	....	....	....	....	6	—	6
1964	....	....	....	....	7	—	7
1965	....	....	....	....	5	1	6
1966	....	....	....	....	3	—	3
1967	....	....	....	....	3	1	4
1968	....	....	....	....	3	1	4
1969	....	....	....	....	7	1	8
1970	....	....	....	....	3	1	4
1971	....	....	....	....	9	—	9
1972	....	....	....	....	9	1	10

The total number of Cancer deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1950 are shown in the following table :—

Year	Total No. of Deaths	Cancer Deaths			Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths
		M.	F.	Total	
1950	152	7	21	28	18.4%
1951	187	12	11	23	12.3%
1952	143	15	14	29	20.3%
1953	152	14	10	24	15.8%
1954	148	11	19	30	20.3%
1955	140	9	9	18	12.8%
1956	168	15	13	28	16.7%
1957	139	8	11	19	13.7%
1958	138	15	11	26	18.8%
1959	157	12	10	22	14.0%
1960	156	12	15	27	17.3%
1961	168	15	10	25	14.9%
1962	138	18	11	29	21.0%
1963	163	11	15	26	15.9%
1964	168	21	13	34	20.2%
1965	169	18	18	36	21.3%
1966	157	15	9	24	15.3%
1967	177	11	20	31	17.5%
1968	181	13	14	27	14.9%
1969	172	19	12	31	18.0%
1970	177	11	21	32	18.0%
1971	186	20	21	41	22.1%
1972	185	20	14	34	18.0%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1972, arranged in age groups :—

Age Group	Measles	Infective Hepatitis	Meningitis
Under 1 year	—	—	1
1+	—	—	—
2+	—	—	—
3+	1	—	1
4+	—	—	—
5—9	—	—	—
10—14	—	—	—
15—19	—	3	—
20—34	—	—	—
35—44	—	—	—
45—64	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	3	2

FOOD POISONING

No cases of food poisoning were reported during the year.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1950

Year	No. of Cases of Pulm. T.B.	Case Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1950	7	0.68	6	0.58
1951	12	1.17	2	0.20
1952	9	0.88	0	Nil
1953	10	0.98	3	0.29
1954	8	0.78	0	Nil
1955	5	0.49	1	0.10
1956	5	0.49	1	0.10
1957	1	0.10	0	Nil
1958	6	0.58	1	0.10
1959	5	0.48	1	0.10
1960	7	0.67	1	0.10
1961	4	0.38	0	Nil
1962	3	0.28	0	Nil
1963	1	0.09	0	Nil
1964	1	0.09	1	0.09
1965	2	0.18	0	Nil
1966	2	0.18	2	0.18
1967	1	0.09	0	Nil
1968	0	Nil	0	Nil
1969	2	0.18	0	Nil
1970	0	Nil	1	0.09
1971	1	0.09	0	Nil
1972	0	Nil	1	0.08

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register on the 1st January and 31st December :

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			TOTAL
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
1972 1st January	28	29	57	6	7	13	70
31st December	28	30	58	6	8	14	72

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit now visits the Borough every fortnight on alternate Thursdays between the hours of 10.15 a.m. and 11.15 a.m. It is situated at the Council's Car Park, Kingsley Road, and its services are available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes, who are aged and infirm and living in insanitary conditions and who are unable to care for themselves and are not receiving proper care and attention from others. Such persons are removed to a County Welfare Home. They can be admitted voluntarily if they so desire.

No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox, and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are three Infant Welfare Clinics, one at Coronation Road (Thursday afternoons), one at the Church Institute (second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month), and one at East-the-Water Community Centre (first and third Tuesday afternoons each month).

' MEALS ON WHEELS '

This service is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Services. The meals are prepared at The Market Cafe and approximately eighty-four meals a week are delivered to the elderly.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an Infectious Disease unit at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves the Borough as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX

The present arrangements are that LISKEARD Smallpox Hospital will be the "first line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases in Devon and Cornwall, with LEE MILL Hospital as "second line" hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance now provides transport for Smallpox cases in Devon or Cornwall. The telephone number is Plymouth (OPL.2)64101.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Venereal Disease Clinic : This is held at the North Devon Infirmary, Barnstaple, Casualty Outpatients' Department:—

Sessions

Males

Mondays 5.30 to 6.30 p.m.

Thursdays 10.30 to 12.00 a.m.

Females

Mondays 4.30 to 5.30 p.m.

Thursdays 9.30 to 10.30 a.m.

INFANT WELFARE CLINICS

There are two Infant Welfare Clinics at Bideford. Clinics are held on the following days:

Abbotsham Road Health Centre

Tuesday morning except first Tuesday in the month.

First and third Tuesday afternoons.

Second, fourth and fifth Thursday afternoons.

East-the-Water Community Centre

First and third Tuesday afternoon in each month 2-4 p.m.

Abbotsham Road Health Centre

The new Devon County Council Health Centre at Abbotsham Road was completed and opened during the year. The Bideford General Practitioner Group Practices and Devon County Council Health Services now operate from this Centre.

Dental Clinics :	every Tuesday morning.
Eye Clinic :	every Wednesday by appointment.
Family Planning Clinic :	every 2nd and 4th Tuesday evening in the month by appointment.
Hearing Clinic :	on the 1st Tuesday morning each month by appointment.
Speech Therapy Clinic:	held every Friday by appointment.
Chiropody Clinic:	1st, 2nd and 4th Monday in the month by appointment. 3rd Tuesday morning each month by appointment. 2nd Thursday morning each month by appointment. every Friday with the exception of 1st Friday in the month by appointment.
Cytology Clinic:	approximately one a month by appointment.

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To the Worshipful the Mayor and Members of the Bideford Borough Council

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have much pleasure in submitting my twenty-second Annual Report on the sanitary administration of the area.

A great set back was experienced in the department early in the year by the comparatively sudden and almost complete turn over in staff. The additional public health inspector who had rendered valuable service to the Council for some 15 years and the two clerical assistants resigned and left local government service. Fortunately, for a period until a new inspector took up his duties, the former additional public health inspector was able to give some very necessary part-time assistance, entirely in the field of house improvements. In this latter field of work, a particularly busy time was experienced, due I feel, to the enhanced grant which was available for improvement work in this area. Very few of these applications related to tenanted properties of which so many, on the whole, fall well below the standard of condition that I would like to see. Associated with the increased activity in house improvement a growing difficulty was encountered in bringing applications for grant to completion. Of the many enquiries received and investigations made, ninety-four applications were dealt with in detail and of these slightly more than a quarter of the number failed to reach approval stage by the end of the year. Shortage of architects/draughtsmen and builders available for carrying out improvement schemes appeared to be the main cause for this situation. In the hope of easing matters somewhat, the Council decided that one estimate of the cost of proposed works instead of three competitive tenders would be acceptable. Some success attended this relaxation, which in turn, gave rise to an increase in the work in this office in checking prices and fees.

Implementation of the approved proposals for the clearance of unfit houses continued. A Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of Torrington Street Clearance Area was confirmed and one in respect of Torrington Lane Clearance Areas No. 1, 2 and 3 was confirmed with some modification after the holding of a Public Inquiry.

A Clearance Area was defined covering fifteen houses in Bull Hill and purchase by negotiation of the properties was entered upon. Future development in this area was given some consideration following discussion with representatives of the Department of the Environment. New Street area in the centre of the town was cleared and the feasibility of developing the cleared site for the provision of accommodation for elderly persons was being looked into.

HOUSING

The number of applicants on the waiting list for council houses at the end of 1972 varied little from that for 1971, but the number of houses built in the Borough by the Council and private enterprise dropped. The growing number of young families requiring separate homes of their own added to the problem. The re-housing of persons from condemned properties in the town continued as the properties were acquired and alternative accommodation became available.

The pressing need for accommodation for elderly persons continued to be a problem and much effort was exercised towards finding suitable land on which to build; unfortunately this effort has not been blessed with success.

The development at Pynes Lane, on the site of the old pre-fabs, the demolition of which had been completed, grew steadily and it was hoped that next year the 24 flats and 55 dwelling houses will be completed and occupied. Although negotiations were put in hand for the purchase of various sites on the boundary of the town for further development by the Council, the overall situation in the housing field relative to council properties in the area does not produce a promising picture in so far as, publicly owned building land is rapidly being used up and difficulties arising from the inadequacy of the town sewerage system are mounting.

During the year proposals to modernise 101 sub-standard council houses built in the late 1920's and early 1930's, were finalised and work commenced on the first two blocks of houses in November. It is hoped that modernisation of the whole 101 will be completed within 18 months.

Improvement Grants

Work under this heading is summarised as follows:

Discretionary Grants

Number of applications brought forward from	
1971	3
Number of applications received	68
Number of applications approved	54
Number of applications not finalised by end of	
year	17
Estimated value of work approved	£75,898.97

Standard Grants

Number of applications brought forward from 1971	1
Number of applications received	22
Number of applications approved	14
Number of applications not finalised by end of	
year	9
Estimated maximum value of work approved	£3,090.00

RENT ACT 1968

No applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received during the year.

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

No action under this heading was taken during the year.

HOUSES COMPLETED AND OCCUPIED DURING THE YEAR WERE:

(a) By the Borough Council	....	....	....	....	21
(b) By private enterprise	....	....	....	....	71
				Total	<hr/> 92
Applicants on housing list at end of 1971	....	....	....		119
Applicants added to list during 1972	....	....	....		106
				Total	<hr/> 225
Applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies				81	
Applicants removed from the list having obtained private accommodation or left the district	....			39	
				—	<hr/> 120
Number of applicants on list at end of year	....				<hr/>105

Continuing the Council's policy for making available housing accommodation to help newly established/expanding industries in the town, eight key workers were housed, this number being included in the above number of applicants housed by transfers and new tenancies.

DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS

Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	183
Revisits made under Public Health Acts	150
Miscellaneous under Public Health Acts	96
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	16
Noise Abatement Act, 1960—Revisits	3
Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	52
Revisits made under Housing Acts	25
Miscellaneous under Housing Acts	77
Overcrowding	2
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)	218
Housing Acts (Discretionary Grants)—Revisits	234
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)	41
Housing Acts (Standard Grants)—Revisits	64
Council Houses (including investigation of Council House applications)	281
Milk and Dairies Order	5
Inspection of Food and Food Premises	41
Inspection of Food and Food Premises—Revisits	11
Butcher Shops	1
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963—Revisits	1
Factories Act	7
Factories Act—Revisits	5
Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	2
Water Supply	9
Petroleum	7
Petroleum—Revisits	5
Insect Pests	2
Rodent Control	2
Mortuary	25
Dustbins....	2
Accumulation	13
Market	2
Number of Preliminary Notices served	52
Number of Preliminary Notices completed	48
Number of Notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations	3
Number of Notices completed under Food Hygiene Regulations	2
Number of Notices served under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	3
Number of Notices completed under Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963	4
Number of Statutory Notices served	4
Number of Statutory Notices completed	3

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	9	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	12	4	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	8	—	—	—
Total	106	12	4	—

2. Defects Found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	4	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	6	6	Nil	Nil	Nil

Part VIII of the Act. OUTWORK (Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome Premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel— Making, Etc.	41	—	—	—	—	—
Feather Sorting	7	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	48	—	—	—	—	—

RAINFALL

The Borough Surveyor kindly supplied the following particulars of the rainfall recorded at King George V Field.

	mm
January 	112.8
February 	118.6
March 	53.2
April 	75.4
May.... 	72.1
June.... 	126.7
July 	37.4
August 	32.9
September 	39.6
October 	41.6
November 	138.0
December 	172.8
	<hr/>
	1021.1
	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLY

Public Supplies

The North Devon Water Board continued to provide the district with a supply of drinking water which was satisfactory in quality and quantity and not liable to plumbo-solvent action.

As the fluoride content of North Devon waters is only an insignificant trace and is not likely to vary much, samples for examination for determining fluoride are not being taken regularly.

The output from Jennetts Waterworks during 1972 averaged 2,087 m³/day (459,000 gallons/day) of which 629 m³/day (138,000 gallons/day) was pumped into the Northam system.

The output from Gammaton Waterworks averaged 725 m³/day (159,000 gallons/day).

During the summer months, over a period of 16 weeks, an average of 1,303 m³/day (287,000 gallons/day) was pumped from the Yeo-Duntz to help maintain the level of Jennetts Reservoir.

Total consumption of water in the Area during the year, amounted to some 2,314 m³/day (509,000 gallons/day).

Seventeen samples of treated water from the Jennetts supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all but two of these were Class I. Forty-nine samples of treated water from the Gammaton supply were submitted for bacteriological examination, all Class I. Remedial action was taken following adverse reports on the two samples mentioned above.

Private Supplies

No samples from private supplies were taken during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewage Disposal

This year saw the holding of a Public Inquiry into the Bideford Borough and Northam Urban District Council's proposed joint scheme for Sewerage and Sewage Disposal into Bideford Bay, by means of a submarine outfall piped from Cornborough Cliffs.

The Public Inquiry lasted ten days and much local interest was generated. The Ministry's decision was still awaited by the end of the year.

Kenwith Valley Flood Prevention Scheme

The development of the Kenwith Valley Flood Alleviation Scheme proceeded rather slowly.

The Council's Main Drainage Consultants took over the Devon River Authority's Scheme, for inclusion with the main drainage proposals of the district as a whole.

Drainage

Much inspectorial time continued to be taken up with investigation of problems connected with old drainage systems.

INSECT PESTS

Very little trouble was experienced from insect pests during the year. The refuse tip was dusted with insecticide to control fly infestations and treatment will be continued where necessary.

RODENT CONTROL

Work proceeded smoothly with the part-time officer satisfactorily dealing with complaints and routine investigations.

The Council's refuse tip and the town sewers were given periodical attention. The sewers continued to show very little sign of infestation.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

The number of premises licensed as Pet Shops under the Act was two.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951

No premises in the Borough are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER 1957

The functions of the Devon County Council with regard to licensing of waste food boiling plants for animal feeding continue to be delegated to this Council.

The importance of adequate boiling of the food before feeding to animals or fowls cannot be over-emphasised as it is considered that failure to do this is responsible for some of the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease, swine fever and fowl pest.

There is one licensed plant in this area, and this is inspected regularly.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

This Act requires establishments used for boarding cats or dogs to be licensed annually by the local authority.

No premises in the Borough are registered under the above-mentioned Act.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

The number of dealers remaining on the register of Scrap Metal Dealers during the year was four.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of Registered Premises at end of year	No. of Registered Premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year
Offices	3	60	4
Retail Shops	2	120	34
Wholesale Shops and Warehouses	—	13	3
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens	—	14	4
Fuel Storage Depots	—	4	—

Total number of inspections and re-inspections during the year was 71.

Analysis of Persons Employed in Registered Premises

Class of Premises	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	477
Retail Shops	522
Wholesale departments, warehouses	125
Catering Establishments open to the public	127
Canteens	9
Fuel storage depots	33
Total	1293
Males	607
Females	686

Exemptions

No applications for exemption regarding space, temperature, sanitary conveniences or washing facilities have been received.

Accidents

The Act requires that the enforcing authority be notified forthwith of any accident occurring on the premises which

- (a) causes the death of a person employed to work on the premises or
- (b) disables any such person for more than three days.

Three accidents were reported under heading (b) during the year, and the premises were duly inspected, but no official action was necessary.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The foodstuffs shown in the following table were inspected and condemned for the reasons stated:—

TABLE OF CONDEMNED FOODSTUFFS

Foodstuffs Condemned	Cause of Condemnation	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
30 tins Meat	Decomposition	—	2	0	15	11
4 tins Meat	Tins blown or damaged	—	—	1	7	14
Ham and Pork	Soured	—	—	1	22	0
4 Shoulders Lamb	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	1	11	4
Various frozen Meats	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	2	21	0
Various frozen Fish	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	1	1	20	14
Various frozen Vegetables	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	—	15	14
Frozen Pastry	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	—	6	0
Ice Creams	Unsaleable due to refrigeration failure	—	—	3	4	15
3 bags kibbled onions	Containing Grit and other foreign objects	—	—	1	16	0
TOTAL		—	6	3	1	8

The number of food premises in this area, by type of business is:—

Bakehouses	....	....	....	....	....	....	1
Butchers Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	15
Cafes and Restaurants including Fish Saloons and Fish and Chip Shops	....	....	....	....	....	....	32
Confectioners	....	....	....	....	....	....	20
Fishmongers	....	....	....	....	....	....	4
Greengrocers	....	....	....	....	....	....	22
Grocers and Provision Dealers	....	....	....	....	....	....	42
Market	....	....	....	....	....	....	1

10 premises are registered for the manufacture or storage of preserved foods.

59 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream, one being a wholesale store supplying other retailers.

In addition there is one registered manufacturer of ice cream producing ice cream by the heat treatment method, and one registered manufacturer using the cold mix method of manufacture.

Condemned food, which consists mainly of tinned foods and small quantities of provisions, is taken by the Council's cleansing department and disposed of by burying at the bottom of the refuse tip.

41 visits of inspection were made to food premises, vans and stalls, and improvements secured where necessary.

MILK SUPPLY

18 purveyors of milk are registered as distributors, one of these being a large concern which is licensed by the Food and Drugs Authority as a pasteurising establishment. This establishment, in addition to selling by retail, supplies by wholesale the remaining distributors.

There are two premises registered as a dairy.

PETROLEUM LICENCES

The number of licences issued for the year was thirty-five. Total quantities stored were 74,195 gallons of petroleum spirit and 2,317 gallons $1\frac{1}{2}$ pints of petroleum mixtures.

The total fees paid to the Council in respect of the above licences amounted to £121.50.

In concluding I wish to thank all members and officials of the Corporation, Dr. Williams, and the staff in my office for their help and consideration.

I am,

Your Worship, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. T. NETTING.

